



Press Release: 31 July 2008

**'Outside In / Inside Out: Shakespeare, the Globe and the Blackfriars'
Globe Education Conference 24-26 October 2008**

Globe Education at Shakespeare's Globe is organising a major conference in October in honour of Professor Andrew Gurr and to mark the 400th anniversary of the re-acquisition of the Blackfriars Playhouse. The event, which is being organised in partnership with the Blackfriars Theatre in Staunton, Virginia, will bring together renowned scholars and theatre practitioners in the field of Shakespeare and his playhouses to consider plays that were written for outdoors theatres that transferred to indoor theatres and vice versa.

Professor Andrew Gurr, Emeritus Professor of English at the University of Reading and former Director of Research at Shakespeare's Globe is a leading theatre historian of the Shakespeare period and was instrumental in the research behind the building of the new Globe, and this was recognised by him receiving the Sam Wanamaker Award this year. He will give the Theo Crosby Fellowship Lecture to open the conference on 23 October.

Director of Globe Education, Patrick Spottiswoode, said: "Globe Education runs an annual conference that seeks to bring theatre scholars and theatre practitioners together to share their differing perspectives on plays and playhouses of the late 16th and early 17th centuries. It is fitting that this year's conference should focus on the Blackfriars Playhouse and is being held to celebrate the work of Andrew Gurr. The 400th anniversary of the Blackfriars provides us with an opportunity to reflect on the impact of moving to an indoor theatre for winter performances at a time when the Shakespeare's Globe is planning to build an indoor Jacobean Playhouse alongside the Globe. It also provides us with an opportunity to celebrate the work of one of the most influential theatre scholars who has also been one of the most significant advisers to the Globe for over 30 years."

In 1596 James Burbage converted part of an old monastery in Blackfriars into an indoor theatre. This was a small, candlelit space meant to entertain the wealthiest citizens and aristocracy. Shakespeare's company moved into this theatre in 1609 and may have performed exclusively there in the winter and at the Globe in the summer. The Blackfriars Theatre in Stanton is a re-creation of this theatre. The second part of the conference will be held there in Autumn 2009.

The conference programme will include sessions with John Astington, Ralph Cohen, Claire van Kampen, Frank Hildy, Ros Knutson, Michael Hattaway, Lucy Munro and Mark Rylance.

At the end of the conference weekend, the first of four of a season of Globe Education's Read Not Dead staged readings will be performed. All four plays were written for indoor playhouses.

Conference tickets cost £85/£25 postgraduate concession and are available by calling the Box Office on +44 (0)20 7401 9919.

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Further information from Katharine Grice on 020 7902 1468 or Fran Eyles on 020 7902 1491 or email Katharine.g@shakespearesglobe.com.

Notes to Editors

- **Globe Education** offers workshops, lectures and evening courses to students of all ages. It has a burgeoning research department led by Dr Farah Karim-Cooper. For further information, telephone 020 7902 1433.
- **Shakespeare's Globe** 2008 Season *Totus Mundus*, includes Shakespeare's *King Lear*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Merry Wives of Windsor* and *Timon of Athens* as well as two new plays, *The Frontline* and *Liberty*. Tickets are available on 020 7401 9919 / 020 7087 7398 or via www.shakespeares-globe.org and range in price from £5 to £33.
- **Shakespeare's Globe Exhibition** is open daily – May to September from 9am to 5pm and October to April from 10am to 5pm. Admission includes a guided tour of the Theatre. For further information, telephone 020 7902 1500.
- **Shakespeare's Globe Shop** stocks a variety of products, including season specific merchandise. Shakespeare's Globe is a registered charity and all profits from sales go towards supporting our educational mission. Items can be bought at the onsite shop or online at www.globe-shop.com
- **The Shakespeare Globe Trust** is a registered charity No.266916. **The Globe receives no public subsidy.**